



STATE OF TENNESSEE
COMPTROLLER OF THE TREASURY
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NEWS RELEASE

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COMPTROLLER'S REPORT EXPLORES THE COMPLEX WORLD OF STUDENT LOANS

Review provides policymakers and the public with
information on student loan sources and practices

REPORT SNAPSHOT: www.comptroller1.state.tn.us/Repository/RE/StudentLoansSnapshot.pdf

FULL REPORT: www.comptroller1.state.tn.us/Repository/RE/StudentLoans2009.pdf

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Tuition and fees at Tennessee public postsecondary institutions more than doubled between 1997-98 and 2007-08. As the costs for attending college continue to rise, Tennessee college students are increasingly relying on loans to finance their education.

But the world of student loans is complex. A new report released today, *Tennessee Student Loans Sources and Practices: A Primer*, is an introduction into the world of student loans. It reviews the practices and sources of student loans at Tennessee institutions in addition to describing the trends in college tuition and student borrowing patterns. It summarizes the loan application and borrowing process for both federal and private student loans and details school practices and consumer protection requirements including loan counseling, disclosure and other loan terms and conditions.

The report was produced by the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury's Offices of Research and Education Accountability at the request of the Tennessee General Assembly in 2008 through Public Chapter 1103.

"Most Tennessee students borrowing money for college take out federal loans. However, an increasing share of student borrowers in Tennessee rely on private loans to finance their education," said Patrick Hultman, a legislative research analyst and co-author of the report. "Whether a student finances college through federal loans, private loans or a mixture of the two, the loan process is complicated. We hope this publication provides policymakers and the public with an easy-to-understand and reliable information source on this important issue."

The Offices of Research and Education Accountability produce various reports on topics of interest. Recent reports are listed below and may be viewed by visiting www.tn.gov/comptroller/orea

- Tenure in Tennessee
- Teacher Compensation in Tennessee
- Teacher Compensation
- On the Horizon: Calculating and Reporting High School Graduation Rates.

MORE

Tennessee Student Loans Sources and Practices: A Primer may be viewed at www.comptroller1.state.tn.us/Repository/RE/StudentLoans2009.pdf.

- 30 -

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The mission of the Office of the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury is to improve the quality of life for all Tennesseans by making government work better. The Comptroller's Offices of Research and Education Accountability (OREA) support the General Assembly and Comptroller with policy research and analysis. OREA reports have led to changes in state law, sparked the creation of state initiatives to address critical needs and informed policy debates within the state legislature and across the state.

Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 8-19-501 requires any official of any agency of the state to immediately report to the Comptroller of the Treasury any shortages of moneys of the state or unauthorized removal of state property, brought about by either malfeasance or misfeasance in office of any state employee. A toll-free hotline is provided for citizens to report fraud, waste and abuse of government funds and property. If you observe an agency director or employee engaging in any activity which you consider to be illegal, improper or wasteful, please call the fraud, waste and abuse hotline at .800.232.5454.